

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 6, and replaces the original sheet containing Fig. 6.

Please amend Fig. 6 as follows:

- the arrow connected to decision block 70 which is labeled YES as originally filed, should be labeled NO
- the arrow connected to decision block 70 which is labeled NO as originally filed, should be labeled YES

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 4 and 9-12 are pending.

The examiner acknowledges receipt of the priority documents. However, Box 12(b) in the Office Action Summary page was checked. If the priority claim is incomplete, clarification is requested to what is needed to complete the priority claim. Otherwise, it is respectfully requested that the Box 12 in the Office Action Summary page be properly completed for the record.

Various drawing objections were raised. The specification has been amended as set forth above to address some of the drawing objections. Fig. 6 has been amended per the examiner's suggestions. The drawing objections are believed to be overcome. No new matter has been added.

Various claim objections were raised. However, since the originally filed claims have been canceled, except claim 4, it is believed the claim objections are now moot. Claim 4 appears to properly recite means-plus-function elements.

The claims 1-8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102 for allegedly being anticipated by Ginter et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,892,900). The Section 102 rejection is believed to be moot in light of the cancellation of claims 1-3 and 5-8. As explained below, Ginter et al. is distinguished from the present invention as recited in appended claims 9-12. As claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 9, it too is believed to overcome the Section 102 rejection.

The electronic mall system of the present invention registers various applications and information relating to the applications. The information is sent by the application service providers (ASPs). The user can search the various services (applications) provided ASPs on the electronic mall system and further can use the services without being aware of the ASPs. The electronic mall system calculates the service charge (application utilization charge) for each user and each service (application) and receives the charge from the user and pays the application providing charge to the ASPs.

In Ginter, the consumers and the VDE (Virtual Distribution Environment) participants are connected to the information utility 200 as shown in Fig. 1. The VDE system

provides secure electronic content distribution, secure transaction management, and electronic rights protection.

In the present invention, the electronic mall system stores various applications provided by ASPs and executes the applications in response to the user request. However, the electronic mall system does not distribute the application itself. Instead, it receives the request from the user, executes the application while logging the application utilization information, and transmits the execution results to the user. In Ginter, by comparison, the information utility stores the electronic contents and distributes them to the consumer with additional information, such as "rules & controls" (Fig. 2). However, the information utility does not execute the electronic contents. The information utility does not show the application search function either.

Further, the present invention stores the linkable application 204 in the application service provider registration database 105 (page 9, lines 25 to 29 of the pending specification). The electronic mall system can execute such linkable applications with the application that is requested by the user (page 6, lines 1-4 of the pending specification).

Accordingly, the present invention is different from Ginter in that the application search function, the application execution function, and linkable application registration & execution functions are not shown therein.

Appl. No. 10/082,674
Amdt. sent June 3, 2005
Reply to Office Action of March 8, 2005


PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


George B. F. Yee
Reg. No. 37,478

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, Eighth Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
GBFY
60504641 v1